

# Enhancing Understanding of Psychotropic Medications

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# Psychopharmacology Revolution

- Plant products
- Alcohol
- Barbiturates
- Amphetamines
- Neuroleptic
- MAOI
- Tricyclic

# Continuing Revolution

- Lithium
- Tegretol
- Depakote
- SSRI
- Clozaril
- SSRI +
- Atypicals
- Newer anticonvulsants

# OVERVIEW

- Neuronal function
- Medication Education
- Drug Class Reviews
  - Antipsychotics
  - Antidepressants
  - Mood Stabilizers
  - Antianxiety Agents

# Medication Classes

## Structural vs. Functional

- Tricyclic
- Phenothiazine
- Benzodiazepine
- Antidepressant
- Antipsychotic
- Anxiolytic
- Mood Stabilizer
- SSRI
- MAOI

# Pharmacokinetics

- Absorption
- Distribution
- Metabolism
- Elimination

# Pharmacodynamics

- Drug actions
- May be additive, antagonistic or synergistic
- Receptors
- Reuptake
- Synaptic metabolism

# Common Neurotransmitters

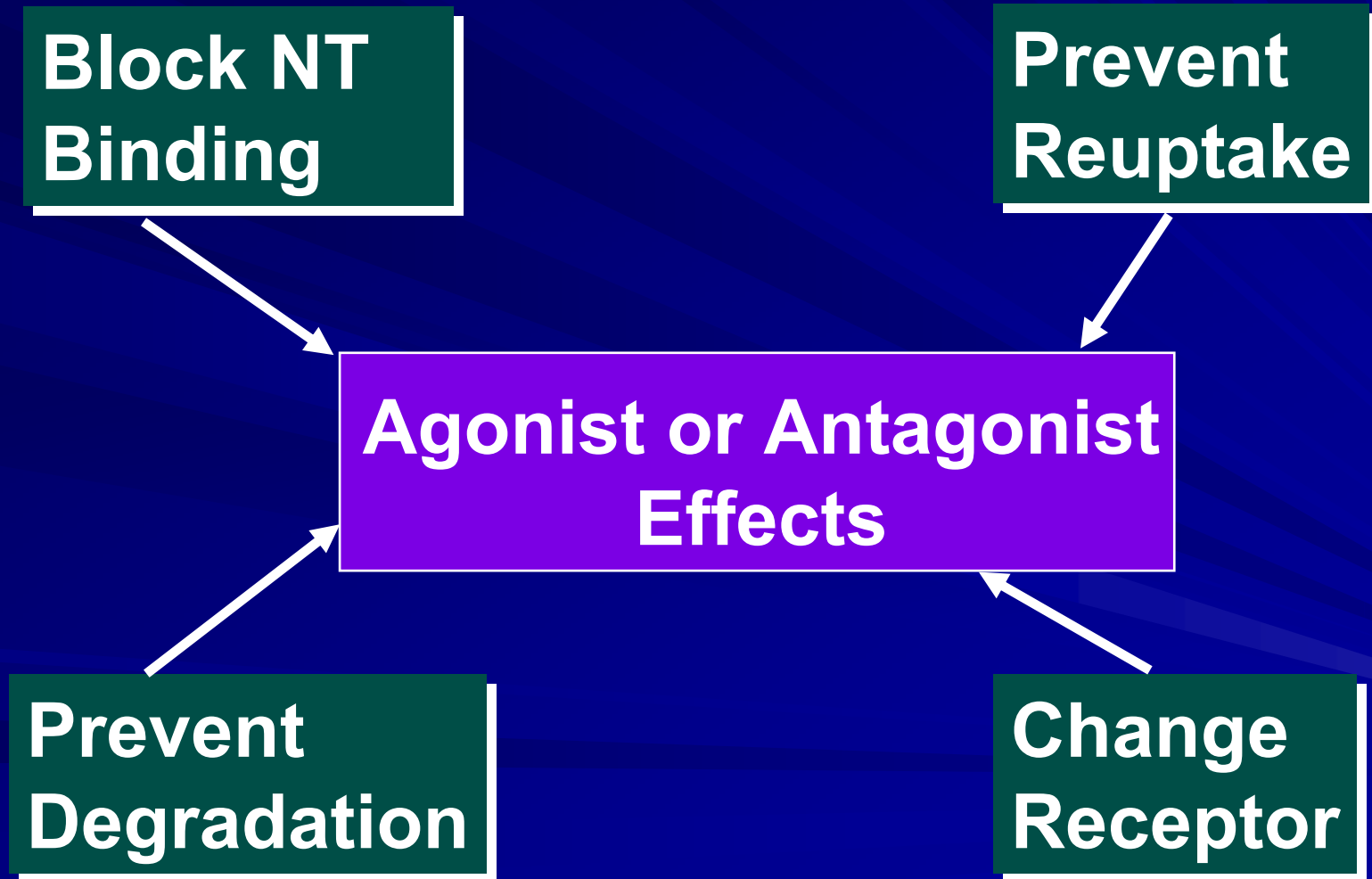
- Acetylcholine (ACh)
- Norepinephrine (NE)
- Epinephrine (Epi)
- Dopamine (DA)
- Serotonin (5HT)
- GABA
- Opiates
- Amino Acids, Peptides



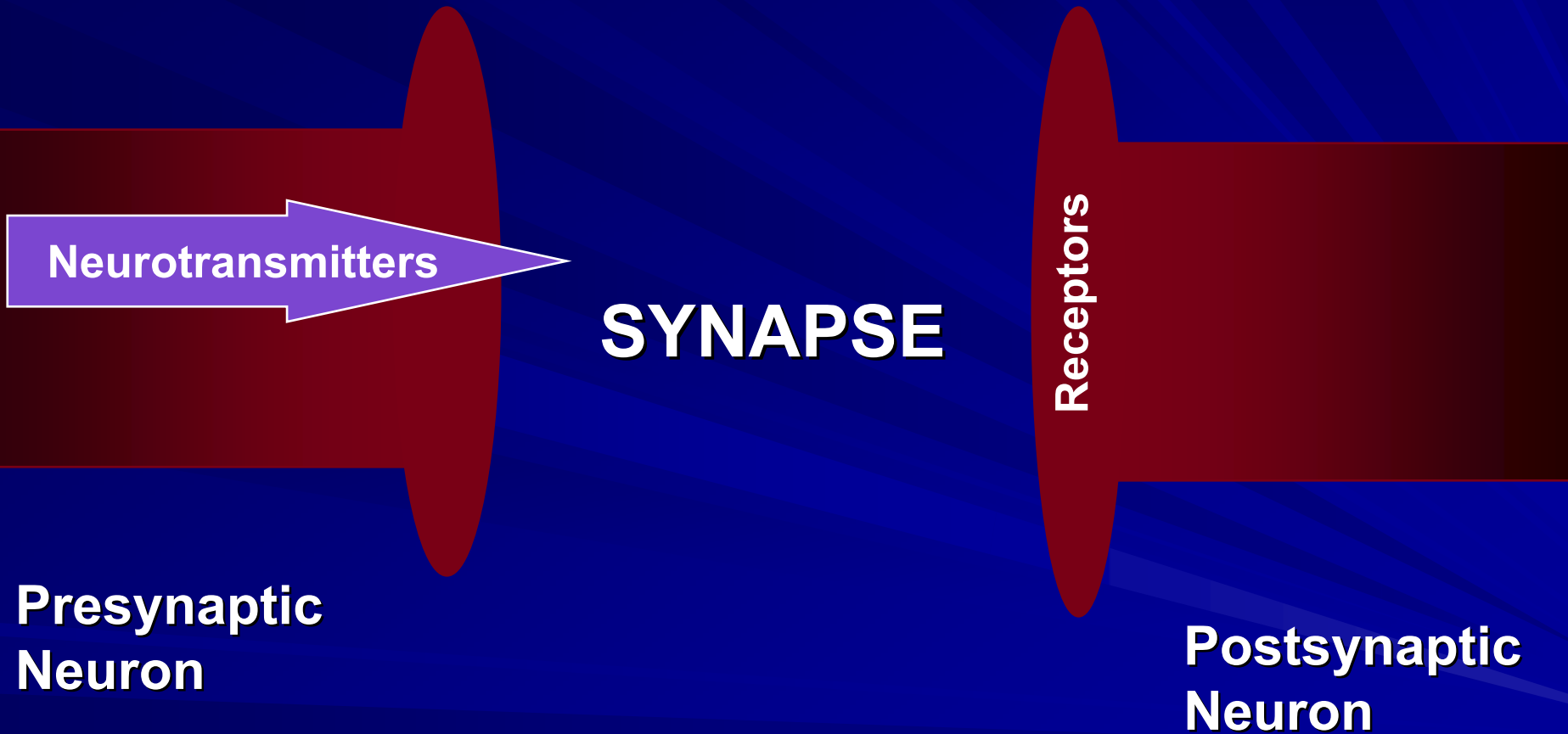
# RECEPTOR PHARMACOLOGY

- Full AGONIST - drug that mimics the effects of the neurotransmitter (turns receptor completely on)
- Partial AGONIST – turns receptor on between 1% and 99%
- ANTAGONIST- drug that blocks the effects of the neurotransmitter

# PHARMACOLOGY



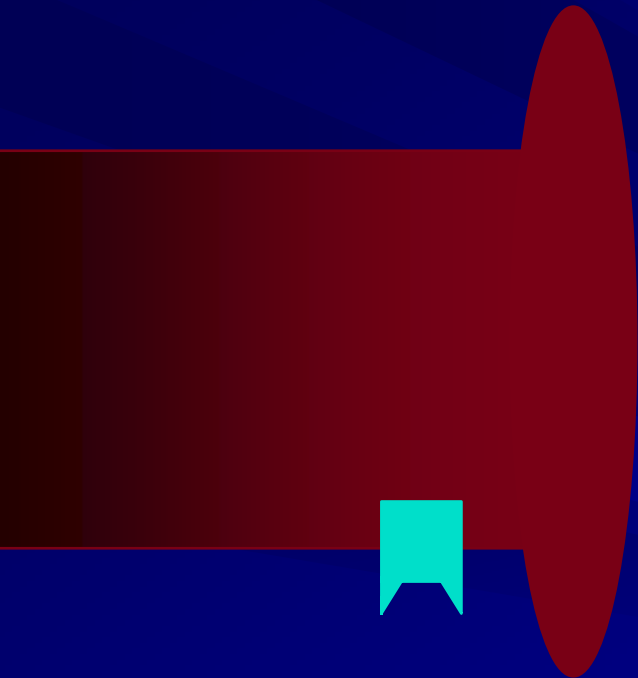
# NEUROANATOMY



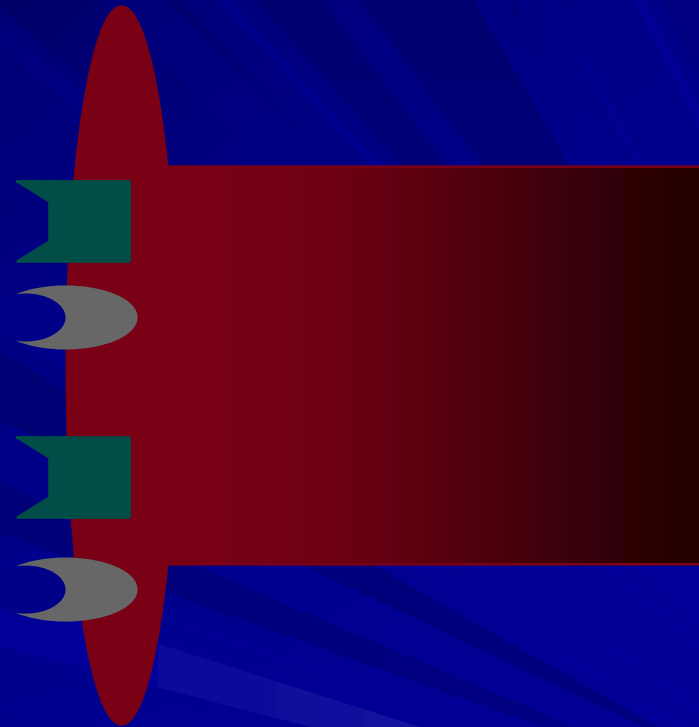
  = PRESYNAPTIC  
RECEPTORS

**SYNAPSE**



  = POSTSYNAPTIC  
RECEPTORS





**Presynaptic  
Neuron**





**Postsynaptic  
Neuron**


  = PRESYNAPTIC RECEPTORS

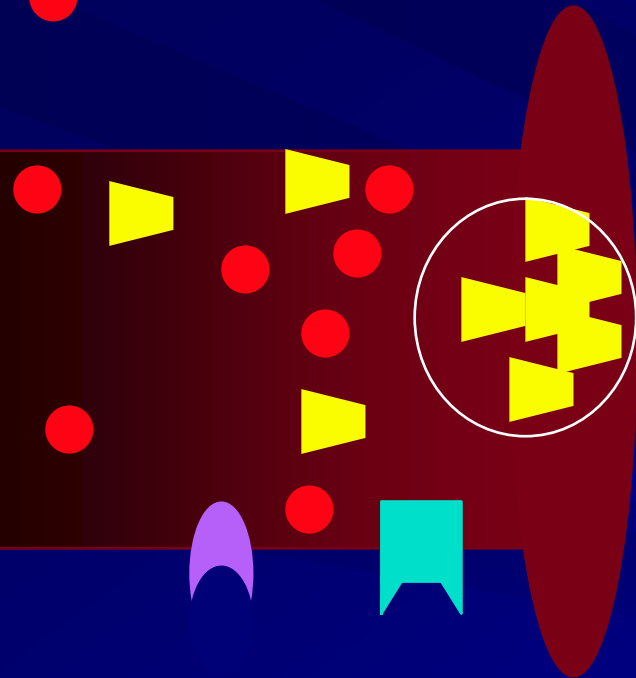
  = NEUROTRANSMITTERS

# SYNAPSE

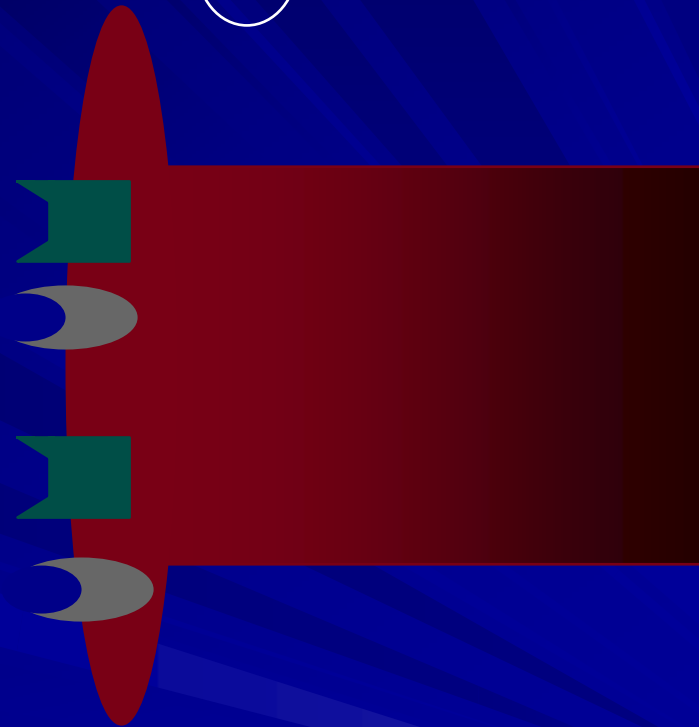


  = POSTSYNAPTIC RECEPTORS

 = VESICLES



Presynaptic  
Neuron

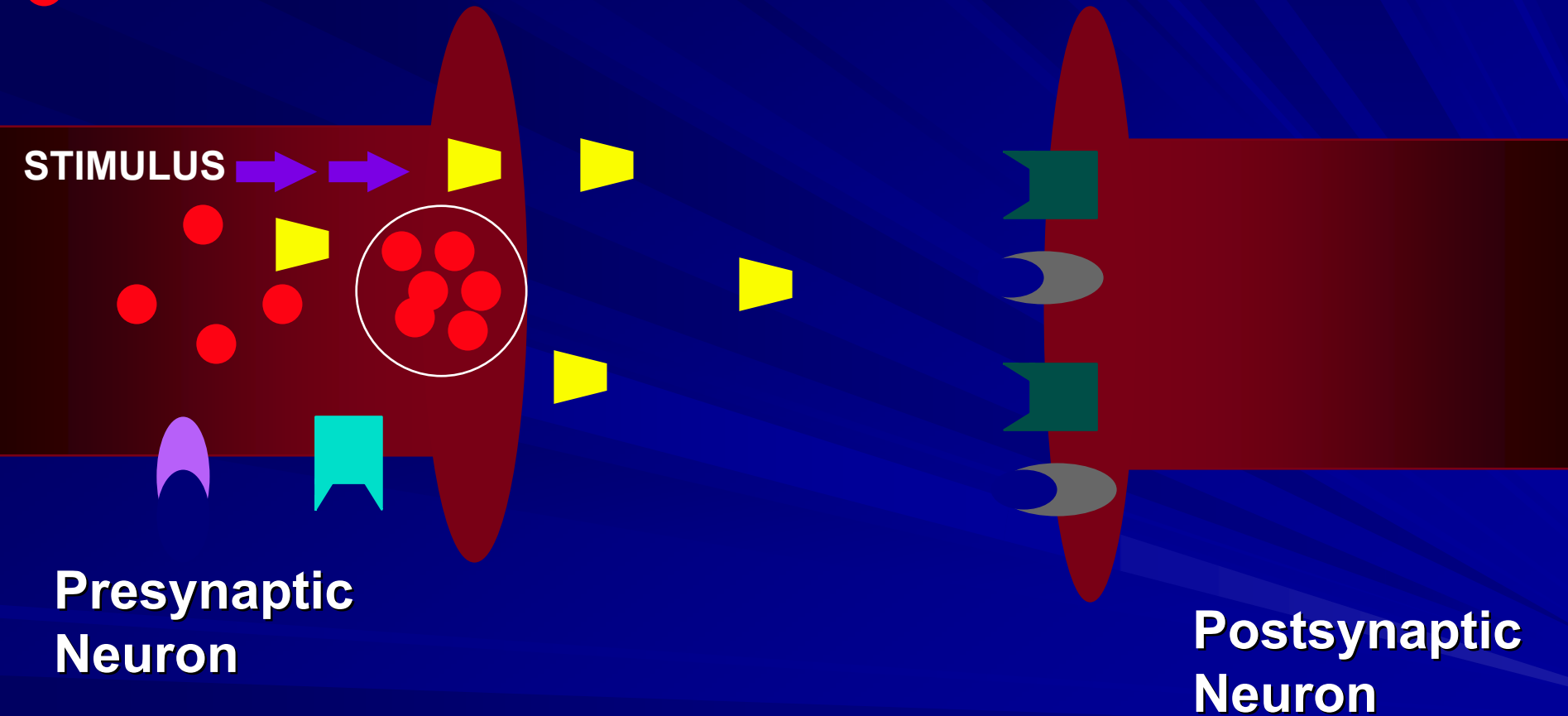


Postsynaptic  
Neuron

  = PRESYNAPTIC RECEPTORS  
  = NEUROTRANSMITTERS

# SYNAPSE

  = POSTSYNAPTIC RECEPTORS

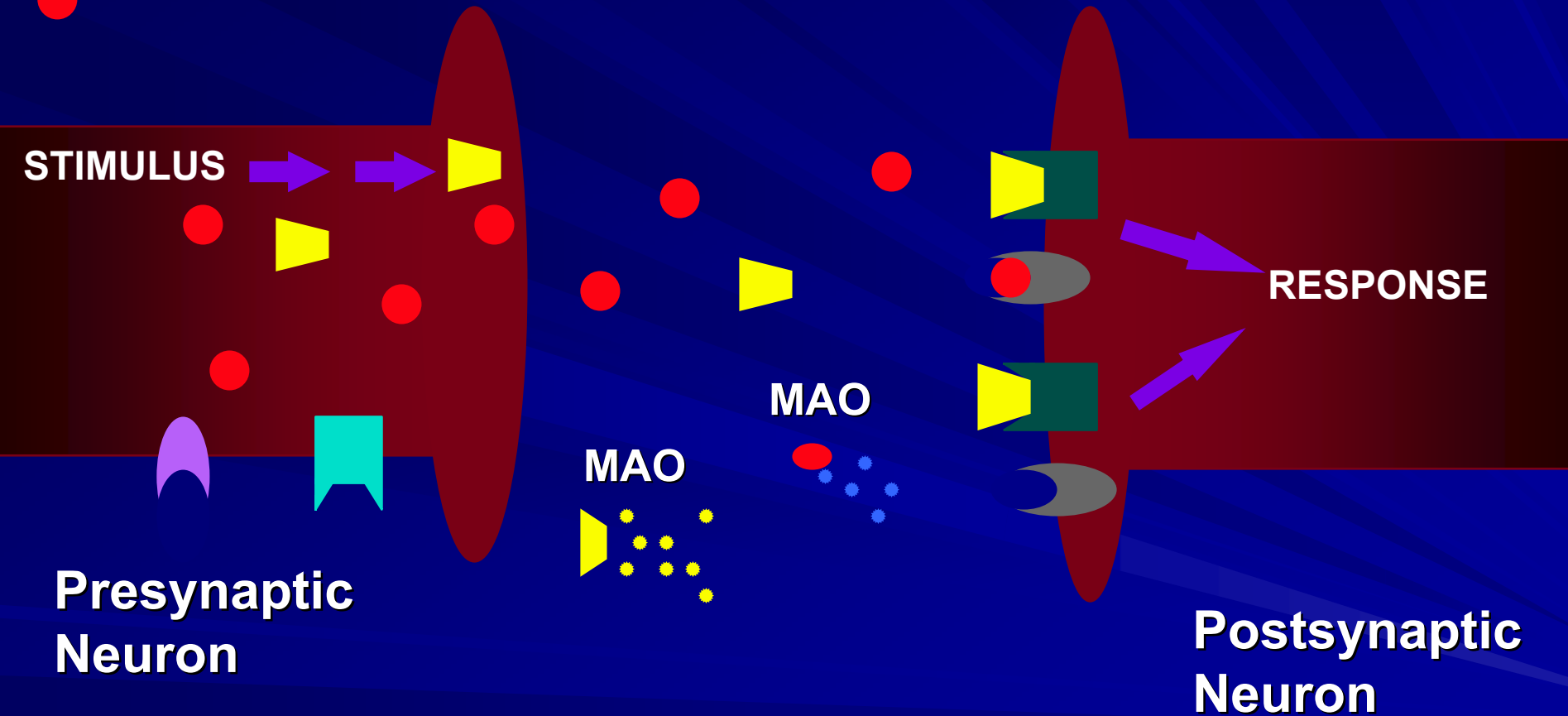




  = PRESYNAPTIC RECEPTORS

  = NEUROTRANSMITTERS

# SYNAPSE

  = POSTSYNAPTIC RECEPTORS

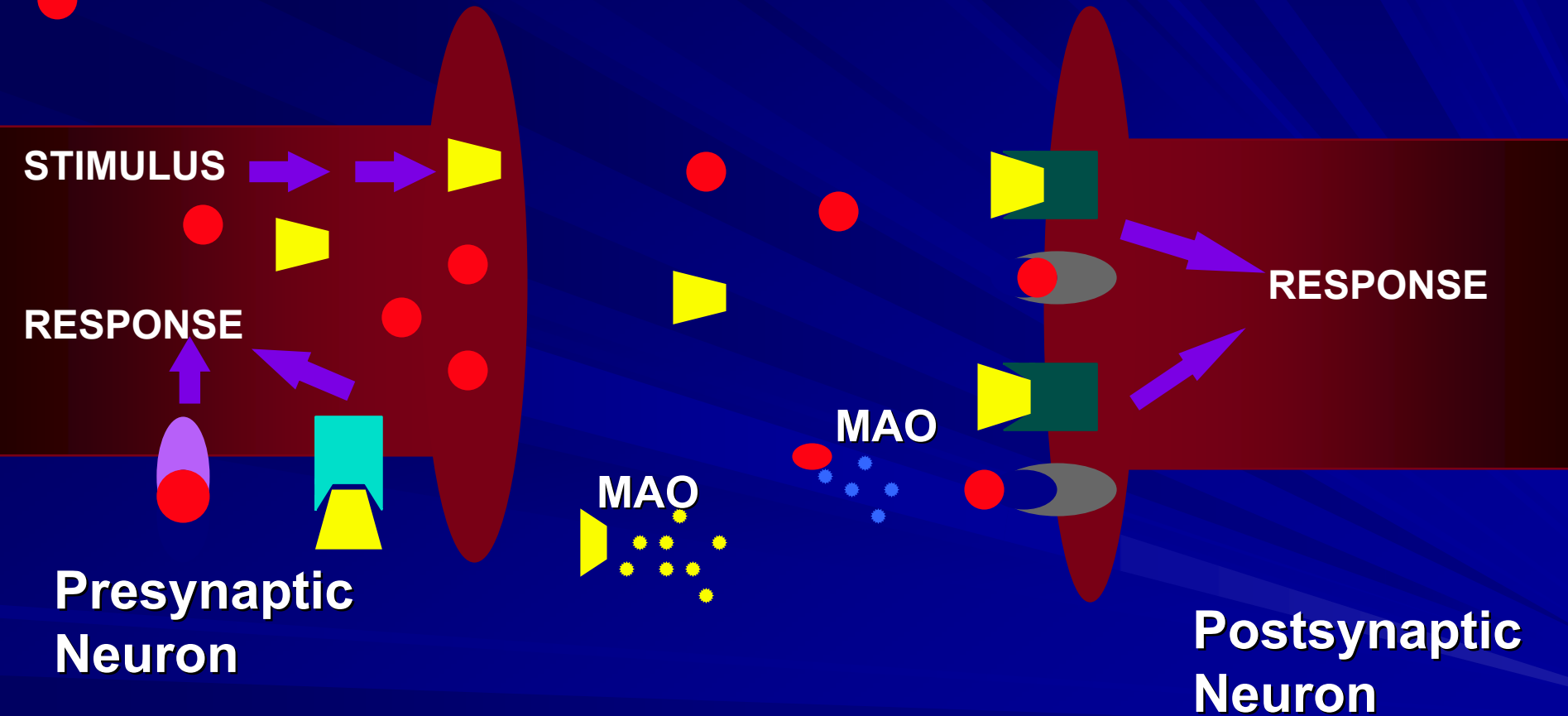


  = PRESYNAPTIC RECEPTORS

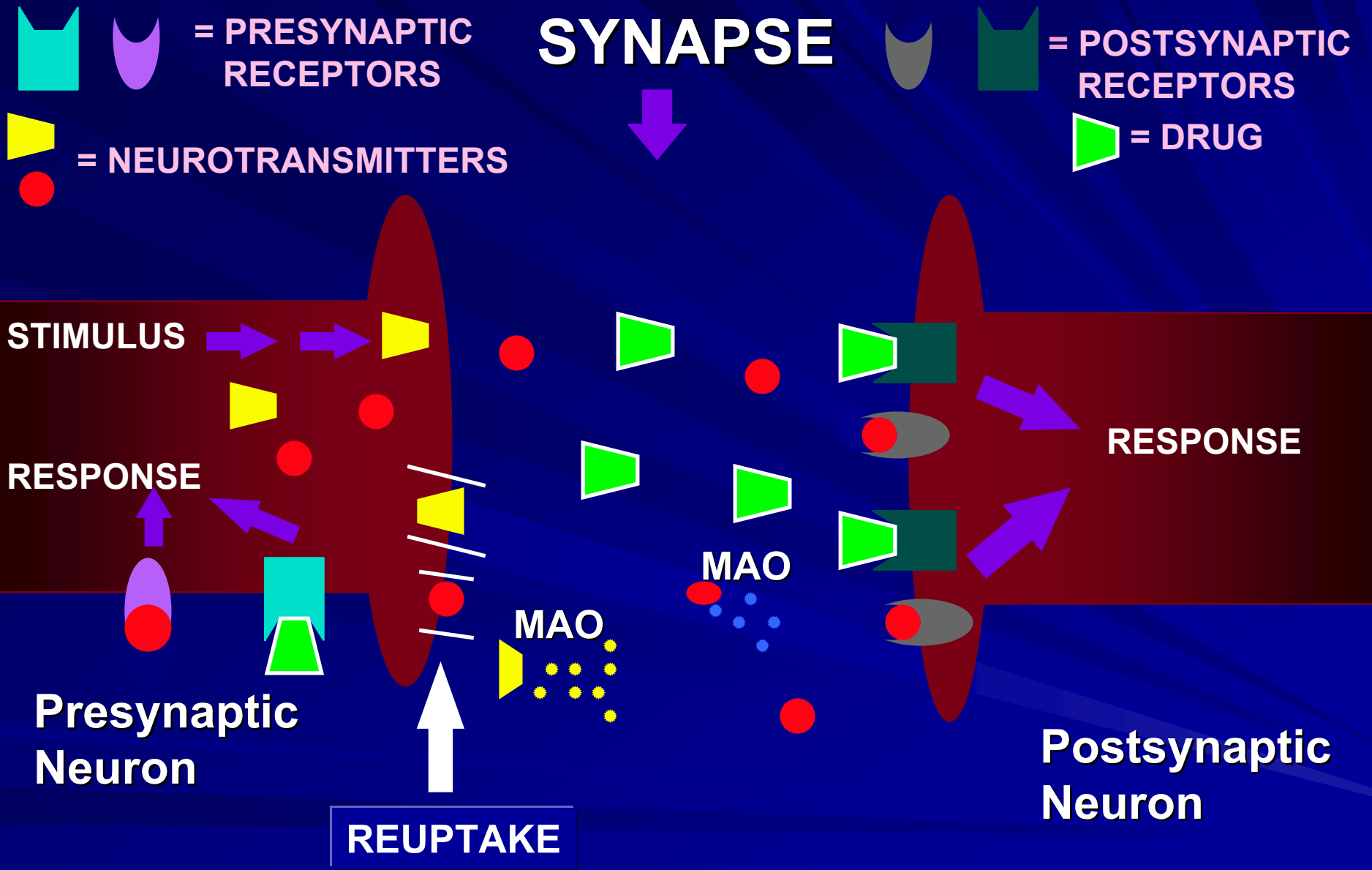
# SYNAPSE

  = POSTSYNAPTIC RECEPTORS

  = NEUROTRANSMITTERS







# Therapeutic Effects of Psychotropic Medication

## Curative versus preventative effects

- a. psychotropic medications relieve symptoms
- b. help prevent the return of symptoms
  - longer symptom free intervals between episodes
  - fewer symptoms during future episodes
  - relief of symptoms between episodes.
- c. adjunctive therapy in the treatment of mental disorders
- d. not to be relied upon as sole treatment

# Psychotherapy

- Useful in nearly every Psychiatric disorder
- Different changes in brain function
- May be imperative for response in patients with trauma history
- Generally synergistic with meds
- CBT most studied

# Long-term Maintenance Treatment

1. Not necessary for all patients
2. Not predictable which patients require long-term therapy
3. Long-term therapy is used for those patients who respond and have recurrent episodes
4. Consider long-term side effects in decision
5. Consolidate of doses to improve compliance
6. Routine follow up is imperative

# Patient Education

- Should include risks of untreated illness/recurrence
- Should include family/caretakers
- Should verify understanding by patient
- Should facilitate adherence/compliance

# PATIENT EDUCATION

- NONCOMPLIANCE LEADS TO:
  - HIGH RATE OF RECIDIVISM
  - HIGHER COST OF TREATMENT
  - MAY POTENTIALLY LEAD TO  
POOR PROGNOSIS
  - OVERALL LOSS OF FUNCTIONING

# BASIC POINTS OF INFORMATION

- type(s) of psychotropic medication(s)
- name(s) of psychotropic medication(s)
- dose patient is receiving
- purpose of medication
- common side effects of medication(s)
- what to do if side effects should happen
- signs of severe toxicity
- drug-drug and drug-food interactions
- appropriate administration

# SIDE EFFECTS

- LIMIT DISCUSSION TO COMMON SIDE EFFECTS
- DISCUSS PATIENTS' EXPERIENCE
- DISCUSS SEEKING HELP FOR SIDE EFFECTS
- SUGGESTIONS FOR MINIMIZING SIDE EFFECTS

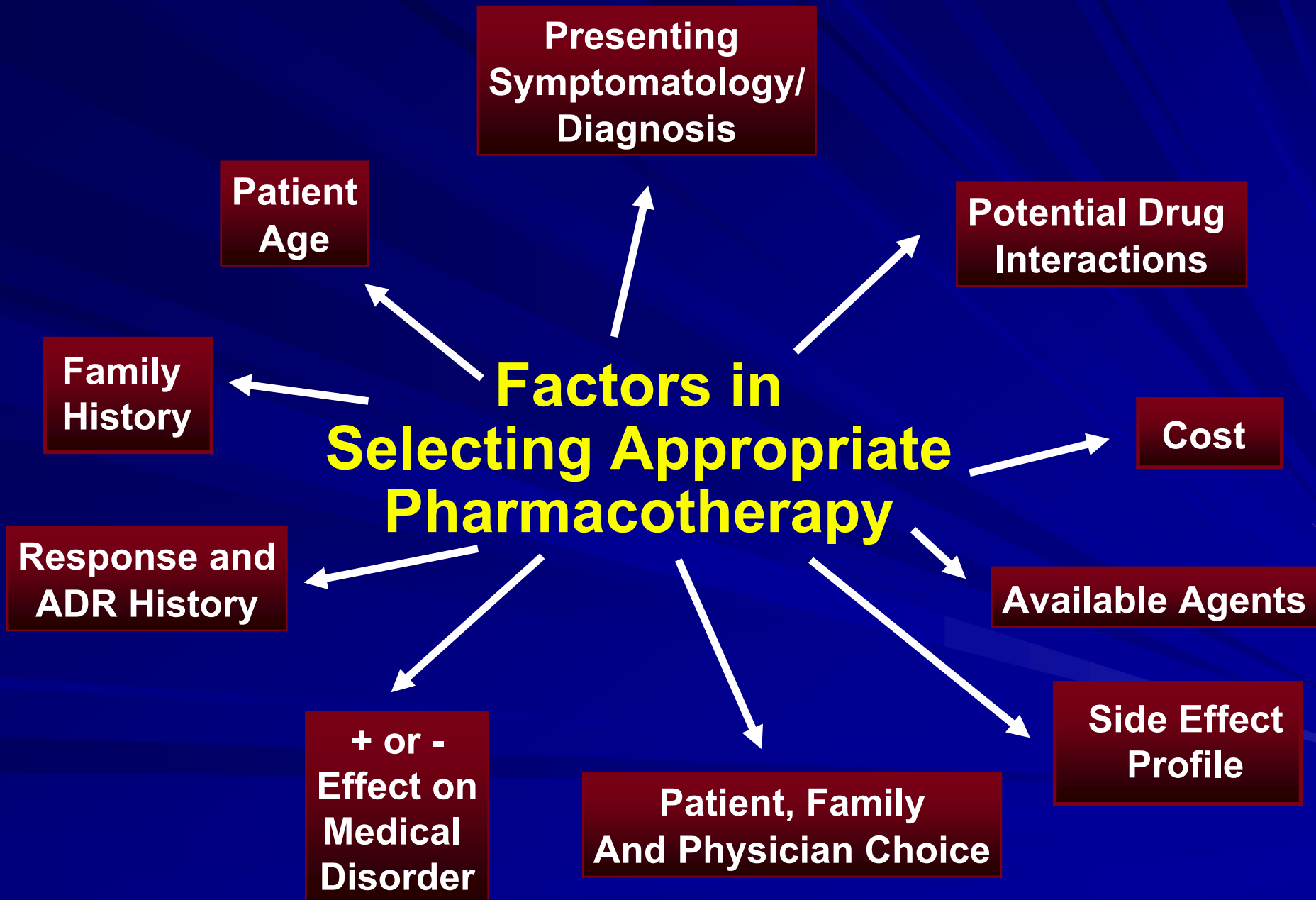


# Consent for Treatment

- Patient, family, guardian
- Should occur with any changes in medication
- Unusual uses of medication

# RESPONSE TO MEDICATION

- DISCUSS REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS
- RELATE TO THE PATIENT'S EXPERIENCE



# Risk: Benefit for Drug Therapy

## Risks

- Adverse Effects
- Toxicity
- Exacerbation of other problems

## Benefits

- Improved Functioning
- Improved Quality of Life
- Reduced Symptoms
- Decreased Mortality

Questions?

# Schizophrenia: Core Symptom Clusters

## Positive Symptoms

- delusions
- hallucinations
- disorganized speech
- catatonia

## Negative Symptoms

- blunted affect
- alogia
- avolition
- anhedonia
- withdrawal

## Social and Occupational Dysfunction

- employment
- interpersonal relationships
- self-care

## Cognitive Symptoms

- attention
- memory
- executive functions

## Mood Symptoms

- dysphoria
- suicidality
- hopelessness



# Target symptoms for antipsychotic treatment

- hostility
- agitation/anxiety
- insomnia
- suspiciousness
- poor self-care habits
- mutism
- social withdrawal
- loose associations
- inappropriate affect
- delusions
- hallucinations
- preoccupations

# Antipsychotic Medications

- Atypical Antipsychotics
- Typical/Conventional Antipsychotics
  - Low potency (Thorazine, Mellaril)
  - High potency (Haldol, Prolixin)
- Long-acting Antipsychotics
  - Prolixin-D®
  - Haldol-D®
  - Risperdal Consta ®



# Adverse Effects of Typical Antipsychotics

1. Low potency- Drowsiness  
usually resolves within 2 weeks
2. High Potency- Extrapyramidal Side Effects (EPS)
  - Dystonias
  - Pseuoparkinsonism
  - Akathisia
  - All- Tardive Dyskinesia- need routine evaluation using AIMS or DISCUS

# Adverse Effects of Antipsychotics

3. Low potency- Anticholinergic side effects: tolerance usually develops to these side effects over 1-2 months.

- dry mouth
- blurred vision
- constipation
- urinary retention
- nasal congestion
- increase in heart rate

4. Low potency- Cardiovascular side effects

- postural hypotension
- arrhythmias/palpitations

5. High potency- Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome

# Medications Used to Treat EPS and Dosage Ranges

TRADE NAME	GENERIC NAME	T1/2	DYSTONIA	DOSE	
				PSEUDO PARKINSON	AKATHISIA
Artane®	trihexyphenidyl	3-4	-	4-20	-
Ativan®	lorazepam*	10-20	0.5-10	-	0.5-10
Benadryl®	diphenhydramine*	2-8	25-50 IM	50-200	-
Cogentin®	benztropine*	6-48	1-2 IM	4-10	-
Inderal®	propranolol	4-6	-	-	90-160
Symmetrel®	amantadine	10-28	-	100-400	-

\* - available in intramuscular dosage form

# ANTIPSYCHOTIC SIDE EFFECT PROFILE

■ DRUG	SEDATION	E.P.S.	ANTICHOL.	CARDIOV.
■ Thorazine	High	Moderate	Mod	High
■ Mellaril	High	Moderate	High	High
■ Serentil	Moderate	High	Mod	High
■ Prolixin	Low	High	Low	Low
■ Haldol	Very Low	Very High	Low	Low
■ Clozaril	High initially	Very Low	Very Low	Low
■ Risperdal	Moderate	Low-Moderate	Very Low	Low
■ Zyprexa	High Initially	Low	Low	Low
■ Seroquel	Moderate	Very Low	Very Low	Low
■ Geodon	Low	Very Low	Low	Moderate
■ Abilify	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Low

# Atypical Antipsychotic Agents

“Atypical” because:

- lower potential for extrapyramidal effects
- greater efficacy in negative symptoms
- greater efficacy in refractory illness
- lower potential to cause prolactin elevations
- greater 5HT-2/D2 receptor effects

# New and “off label” uses

- Bipolar
  - Mania
  - Mixed
  - Maintenance
  - depression
- Resistant Depression
- Refractory OCD
- Borderline
- Autism Spectrum
- Anxiety
- Sleep

# Atypical Antipsychotic Agents

■ <u>Agent</u>	<u>Dosing Range</u>
■ Clozapine (Clozaril)	200 - 900 mg/day
■ Risperidone (Risperdal)	1 - 8 mg/day
■ Olanzapine (Zyprexa)	7.5 - 30 mg/day
■ Quetiapine (Seroquel)	150-800 mg/day
■ Ziprasidone (Geodon)	40-160 mg/day
■ Aripiprazole (Abilify)	10-30 mg/day

# Clozapine

- Dibenzodiazepine
- $t_{1/2}$  - approximately 12 hrs
- Doses initiated at 12.5-25 mg/day, titrated by 25-50 per day x 2 weeks to target dose



# Clozapine

Beneficial in positive and negative symptoms, good evidence in treatment resistant patients

May need 6 month trial in treatment resistance

# Clozapine - Adverse Effects

- Weight Gain- DM, Dyslipidemia
- Sedation
- Hypersalivation
- Constipation
- Tachycardia
- Cardiomyopathy
- Orthostasis
- Seizures
  - < 300 mg/day - 1%
  - 300 - 599 mg/day - 2.7%
  - ≥ 600 mg/day - 4.4%

# Clozapine - Adverse Effects

- Agranulocytosis ( $\text{ANC} < 500/\text{mm}^3$ )
  - risk is 0.38% vs. 1-2% overall
  - can happen anytime and with any dose
  - most common early in therapy <6m
  - leukopenia is predictive
    - don't initiate if  $\text{WBC} < 3500/\text{mm}^3$
    - $\text{WBC } 3000\text{-}3500$ , or drops by 3000 in 1-3 wks - increase monitoring to 2x/wk
    - $\text{WBC } 2000\text{-}3000$  or  $\text{ANC } 1000\text{-}1500$  - stop clozapine, resume if  $\text{WBC} > 3500$
    - $\text{WBC} < 2000$  or  $\text{ANC} < 1000$  - d/c clozapine - no rechallenge

# Risperidone

- $t_{1/2}$  - approximately 20 hrs including metabolite
- Lower doses and slower titration in young and old
- Average dose is 4-6 mg/day

# Risperidone - Adverse Effects

- Dose-related extrapyramidal effects
- Akathisia
- Sedation/insomnia/anxiety
- Orthostasis
- Nausea/vomiting
- Prolactin increases
- Wt- 18% gained 7% of baseline in short term trials vs. 9% on placebo
- Tardive Dyskinesia - <1%

# Olanzapine

- $t_{1/2}$  - approximately 27-38 hrs
- Doses initiated at 10-20 mg/day, titrated in 5 mg increments
- Average dose is 10-20 mg/day

# Olanzapine - Adverse Effects

- Somnolence
- Orthostasis/dizziness
- Akathisia
- Weight gain 29% gained 7% of baseline in short term trials vs. 3% on placebo
- DM, lipids
- Dose-related increases in EPS and prolactin
- Elevated hepatic transaminase

# Quetiapine

- $t_{1/2}$  - approximately 7 hrs
- Doses initially titrated to 150 mg/day
- Average dose is 400-800 mg/day for schizophrenia



# Quetiapine - Adverse Effects

- Drowsiness
- Agitation
- Weight Gain- 23% gained 7% of baseline in short term trials vs. 6% on placebo
  - May be dose related
- DM, Lipids
- Constipation
- Dry Mouth
- Orthostasis
- Mild increase in hepatic transaminase

# Ziprasidone

- T  $\frac{1}{2}$  - 6-8 hrs
- Doses 40-160mg/day
- 50% less absorption without food
- IM available 20mg/dose
  - NTE 40mg in 24hrs

# Ziprasidone- Adverse Events

- QTC prolongation
  - Rarely clinically significant
  - Stop if over 500ms
  - Greater risk with low potassium or magnesium
- Sedation- 14%
- EPS- 5%
- Weight gain- 10% gained 7% of baseline in short term trials vs. 4% on placebo
- Long-term wt “neutral”
- Minimal effect on lipids

# Aripiprazole

- High affinity
  - 90+% D2 occupancy at clinical doses
- Partial agonist
  - 25-30% of Dopamine activity
- T  $\frac{1}{2}$  3-5 days

# Aripiprazole- Adverse Effects

- Nausea
- Headache
- Insomnia
- WT- 8% gained 7% of baseline in short term vs. 3% on placebo
- Long term wt “neutral”
- Minimal effect on lipids

# Long acting injectables

- Known compliance or noncompliance
- Lower peak levels of drug
- Loading strategies for Decanoates
- 2-3 wk lag for Risperdal Consta
- Lower rehospitalization rates

## Mirror Image Studies Comparing Number of Hospital Days - Depot v. PO

Study	No. of Patients	Duration (yrs)	No. Hosp Days		p value
			on oral	on depot	
Denham & Adamson, 1973	103	12-40 mo	8,719	1,335	$10^{-15}$
Devito et al, 1978	122	1	3,329	314	$10^{-2}$
Freeman, 1980	143	12	19,510	4,376	$10^{-25}$
Gottfries and Green, 1974	36	2-6	12,390	2,940	$10^{-4}$
Marriott and Hiep, 1976	131	$\geq 1$	12,434	5,619	$10^{-5}$
Tegeler & Lehmann, 1981	78	5	19,110	3,276	$10^{-5}$

# Pharmacologic Treatment of Schizophrenia

- Consider contraindications to specific medications
- Choose based on:
  - Past response
  - Side effects
  - Patient preference
  - Planned route of administration
- Clozapine is Gold Standard for treatment resistance
- No evidence for Polypharmacy
- Negative symptom response is modest even with Atypicals



Questions?

# Antidepressant uses

- Major Depression
- Dysthymia
- Panic Disorder
- Generalized Anxiety
- OCD
- PTSD
- Bipolar Depression
- Eating Disorders
- Premenstrual dysphoric disorder

# Target Symptoms for Antidepressant Treatment

- -mood/feeling

- sadness

- irritability

- pessimism

- self-reproach

- anxiety

- -suicidal thoughts

- -hopelessness

- -guilt

- -no enjoyment

- 

- vegetative signs

- slowed movement

- slowed thinking

- poor memory and

- concentration

- fatigue

- constipation

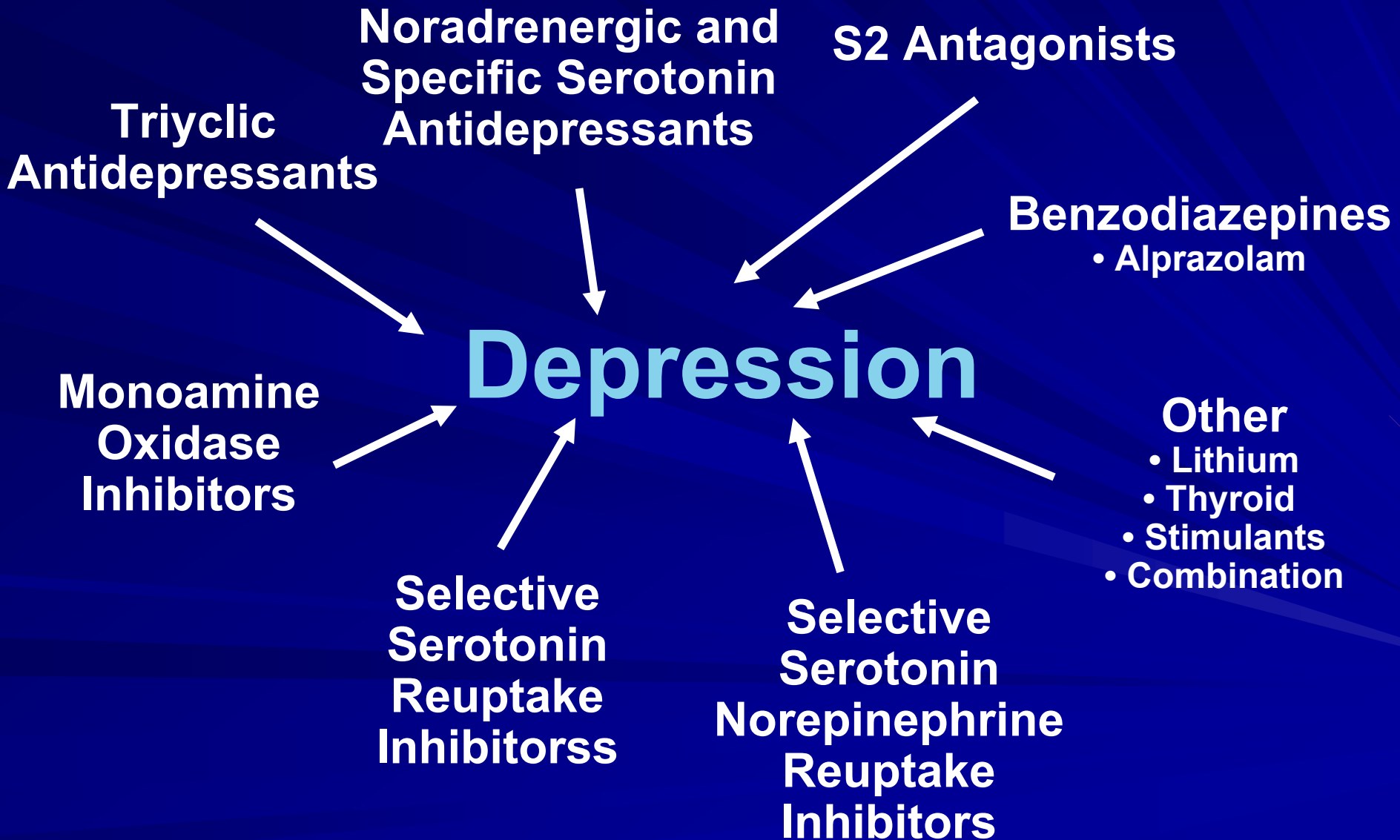
- decreased sex drive

- anorexia

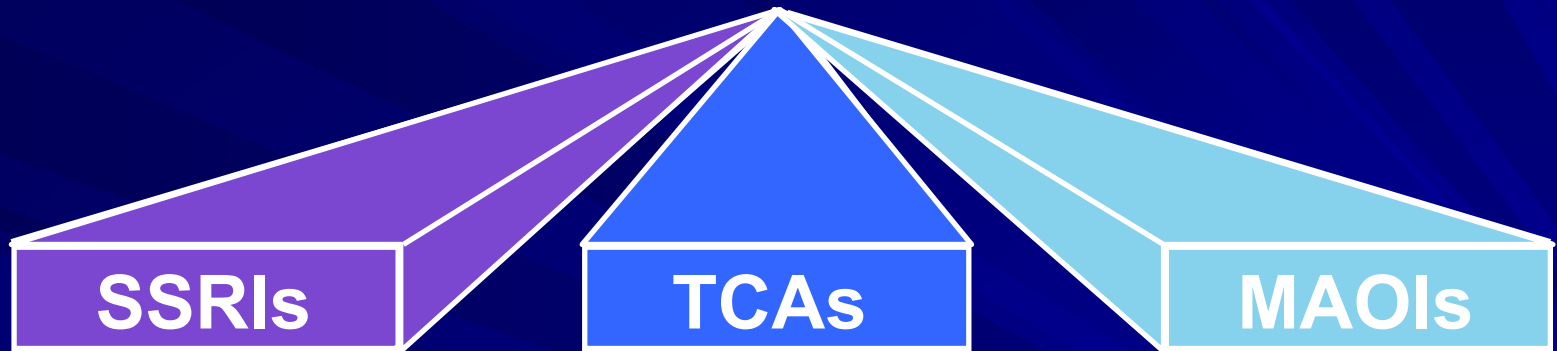
- weight change

- insomnia

# Antidepressant Options for Depression



# Antidepressants

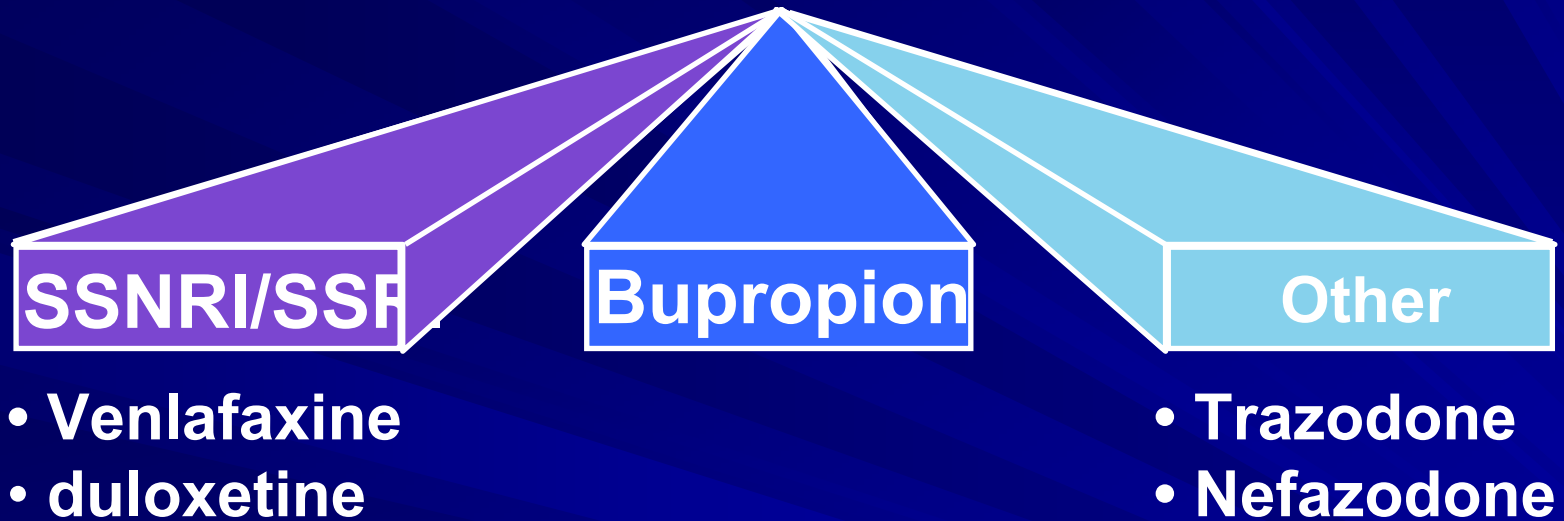


- Fluoxetine
- Sertraline
- Paroxetine
- Fluvoxamine
- Citalopram
- Escitalopram

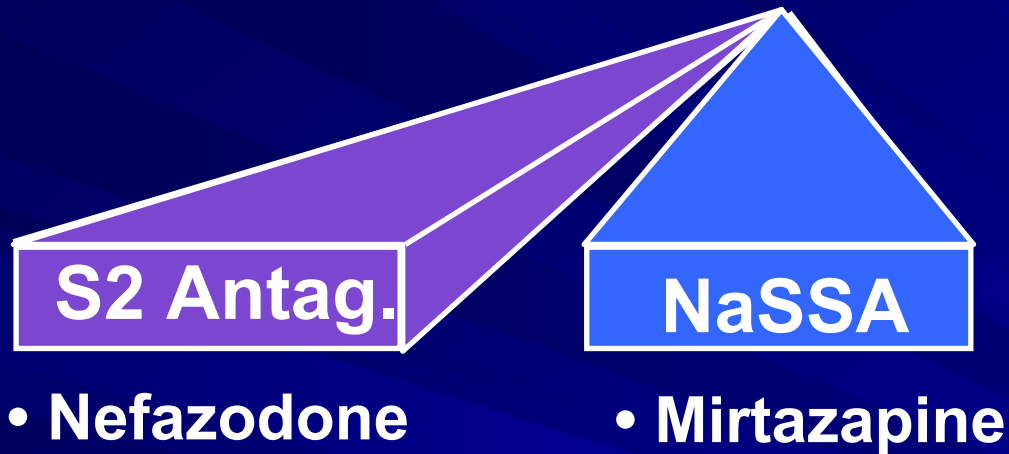
- Amitriptyline
- Desipramine
- Doxepin
- Imipramine
- Nortriptyline
- Clomipramine

- Phenelzine
- Isocarboxazid
- Tranylcypromine

# Antidepressants



# Antidepressants

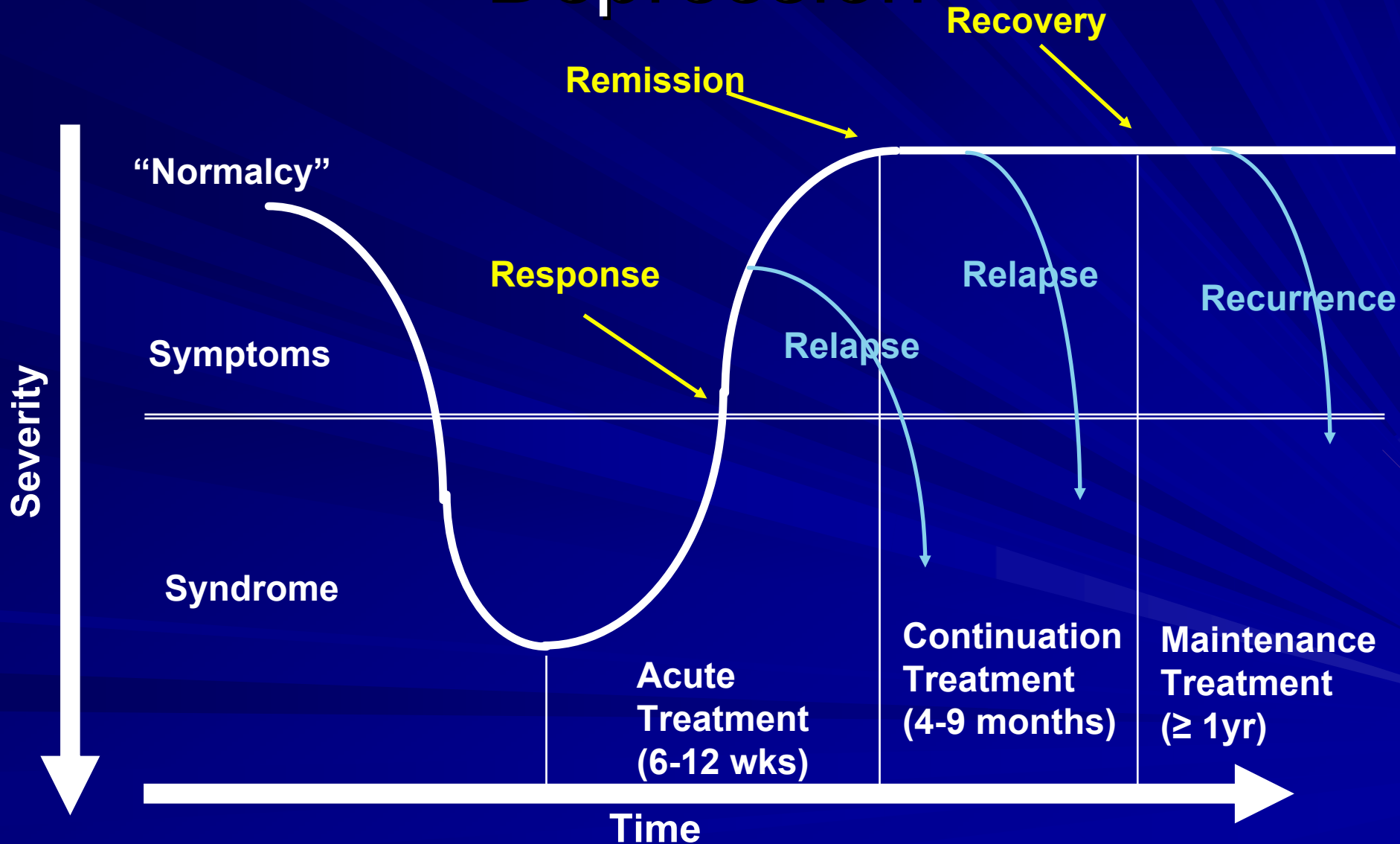


# MAO Inhibitors

- MAO “destroyers” irreversible
- Just say No
- Multiple food and drug interactions
- Toxic in OD
- Must allow several weeks off meds when switching



# Phases of Treatment for Depression



Adapted from: Depression Guideline Panel, Depression in Primary Care, AHCPR, April 1993.

# Initiation of Therapy

## ■ • Dosing

- - Underdosing is primary problem with TCAs
- - Initiate therapy with divided doses to minimize ADRs
- - SRIs can be initiated at therapeutic doses
- - consider age of patient and adjust accordingly

## ■ • Dosage Adjustment

- - Target dose should be achieved as quickly as tolerated
- - If NO CHANGE in 2 wks consider change
- - Maximal response in 8 weeks of therapy
- - Generally flat dose response for SSRI
- - Venlafaxine becomes SNRI at higher doses

# Symptom Remission

## 2-4 Weeks

- Relief of Depressed Mood
- Less Hopeless/Helpless
- Thoughts of Suicide Subside

## 1-3 Weeks

- Increased Activity, Sex Drive, Self-care, and Memory
- Thinking and Movements Normalize
- Sleeping and Eating Patterns Normalize

## First Week

- Decreased Anxiety
- Improvement in Sleep
- Improvement in Appetite

# Survival

- Recurrence rate of 30% in 3 years at full dose, 70% at half dose of Imipramine
- 50-70% of patients will relapse over 1 year period without maintenance treatment
- Risk of relapse continues to increase over time
- Risk of relapse significantly reduced with maintenance therapy - 80-90% remain well during first year of maintenance therapy
- Interpersonal Psychotherapy does not improve survival significantly over medication management

■ Frank, et.al., *Arch Gen Psychiatry* 1990;47:1093.

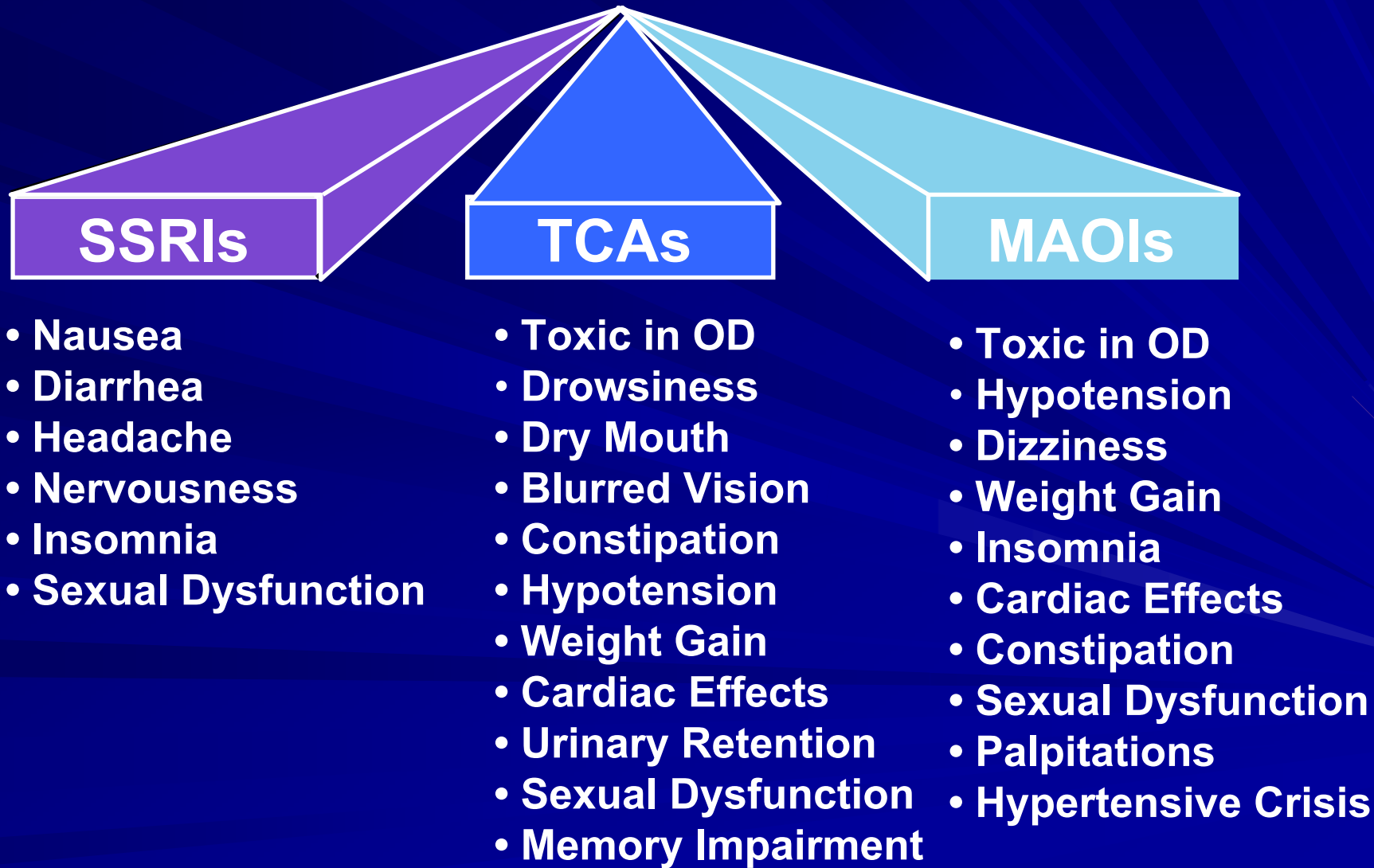
■ Frank, et.al., *J Affect Dis* 1993;27:139.

■ Kupfer, et.al., *Arch Gen Psychiatry* 1992;49:769.

# Medication Maintenance

- 1. Goal is preventing new episode of depression
- 2. Potential Candidates:
  - Three or more episodes of major depressive disorder
  - Two episodes and:
    - a. Family history of bipolar disorder in 1st degree relative
    - b. History of recurrence within 1yr after d/c of effective pharmacotherapy, or poor symptom control in continuation
    - c. Family history of recurrent major depression in a first degree relative
    - d. Onset prior to age 20, or after age 60
    - e. Both episodes were severe, sudden or life threatening in the past 3 years
    - f. Concurrent depression and dysthymia
- Adapted from: Depression Guideline Panel, Depression in Primary Care, AHCPR, April 1993.

# Antidepressant Side Effects



# Antidepressant Side Effects



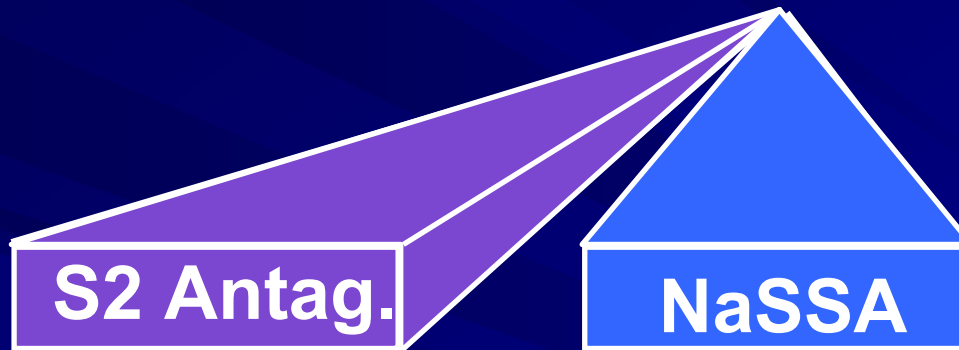
- Nausea
- Diarrhea
- Headache
- Hypertension
- Nervousness
- Insomnia
- Sexual Dysfunction

- Insomnia
- Seizures
- Weight Gain
- Cardiac Effects

- Hypotension
- Dizziness
- Weight Gain
- Constipation
- Sexual Dysfunction
- Memory Impairment



# Antidepressant Side Effects



- constipation
- lightheadedness
- postural hypotension
- headache
- dry mouth
- nausea
- somnolence
- confusion
- visual changes
- sexual dysfunction
- rare liver failure

- sedation
- nausea
- weight gain
- dizziness
- dry mouth
- constipation
- visual changes
- pruritis/rash
- sexual dysfunction
- agranulocytosis

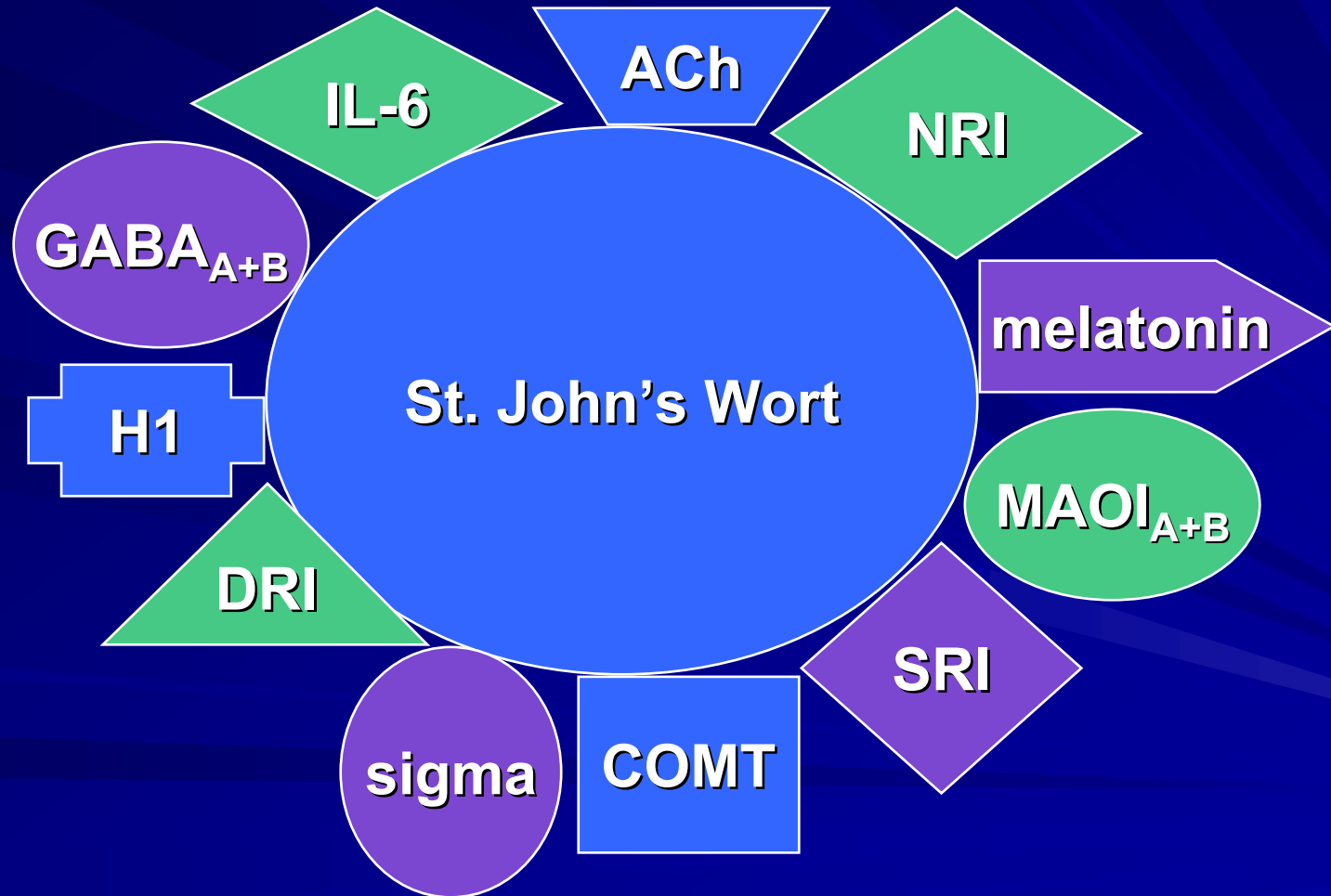


# St. John's Wort

## *Hypericum perforatum*



# Pharmacologic Mechanisms of St. John's Wort



# St. John's Wort

- May be effective for mild-moderate depression
- NIMH trial showed no benefit

Questions?

# MANIC-DEPRESSIVE (BIPOLAR) ILLNESS

Membrane stabilizers

Lithium carbonate/ Lithium Citrate

Tegretol (carbamazepine)

Depakote (valproic acid) (sodium  
valproate)

Lamictal (lamotrigine)

Neurontin (gabapentin)

Topamax (topiramate)

Omega 3

# Target Symptoms for Mania

## ■ -mood disorder

- irritability
- expansive
- manipulative
- labile
- elevated

## -delusions

- sexual
- persecutory
- religious
- grandiose

## ■ -hyperactivity

- sleep disturbance
- pressured speech
- increased motor activity
- assaultive/threatening
- distractibility

## -schizophreniform

- loose associations
- hallucinations

# Lithium formulations

- Lithium carbonate capsules or tablets - Eskalith®,  
(1 capsule or tablet = 300 mg = 8 mEq Lithium)
- Lithium carbonate time-released tablets -  
Eskalith SR (1 tablet = 450 mg = 12 mEq Lithium)  
Lithobid (1 tablet = 300 mg = 8 mEq Lithium)
- • Lithium citrate syrup - Lithionate®  
– (1 teaspoonful = 5 ml = 560 mg = 8 mEq Lithium)
- Target trough levels 0.6-1.4

# Lithium Pre-drug Work-up

- serum electrolytes
- BUN/Sr. Creatinine
- Thyroid function tests - TSH, T3RU, T4
- Urinalysis
- Pregnancy Test
- Complete blood count with differential
- ECG ?



# Side Effects of Lithium Therapy

- 1. Early side effects
  - - Gastrointestinal
  - -fine hand tremor
  - -fatigue, muscle weakness, dazed feeling
  - -increased thirst and frequent urination
  
- 2. Persistent side effects
  - - fine hand tremor
  - - increased thirst and urination
  - - increase in white blood cell count

# Side Effects of Lithium Therapy

- 3. Late side effects: moderate toxicity.
- Lithium  $\geq 1.5$  mEq/l
- - more severe hand tremor, coarsening of the tremor
- - reappearance of GI symptoms
- - confusion
- - hypothyroidism
- -ataxia
- -slurred speech

# Side Effects of Lithium Therapy

- 4. Severe toxicity: overdose effects
- Lithium  $\geq 2.5$  mEq/lr

- -seizures
- -cardiovascular collapse
- -coma
- -death

# Advantages of Lithium Therapy

- - will control a manic patient without a "drugged effect"
- - will normalize mood
- - very good prophylactically to decrease mood swings
- - relapses, when they occur, are less severe and usually shorter in duration
- - blood concentration monitoring allows careful titration to therapeutic concentration
- - low drug cost

# Disadvantages of Lithium Therapy

- -narrow range of therapeutic blood concentrations, requires close monitoring to prevent toxicity
- -patient compliance and understanding of the warning signs of toxicity is important
- -lag period before therapeutic effect in manic patients
- -prophylactic effect may take 6 months to 1 year to maximize
- -rapid cyclers are poor responders
- - family "losses" a fun loving, energetic family member - important aspect of education

# Valproic Acid

- Depakene • 100, 250, 500 mg capsules
- Depakote • 125, 250, 500 tablets ()
- Depakote ER - once daily
- • 250mg/5 cc suspension
- • rapid titration – 20-30 mg/kg

# Carbamazepine

- Minimal use due to enzyme induction
- Induces metabolism of all antipsychotics

# Pre-drug Work-up

- Carbamazepine and Valproic acid
- Chemistry Profile - electrolytes, albumin, and total protein
- BUN/Sr Creatinine
- Thyroid function tests - TSH, T3RU, T4
- Pregnancy Test
- Complete blood count with differential
- Liver function tests - AST (SGOT), ALT (SGPT), Alkaline Phosphatase, GGT



# Advantages of Carbamazepine and Valproic Acid Treatment

- - beneficial in rapid cycling persons
- - alternative for persons not responsive or who do not tolerate lithium
- -will normalize mood
- -very good prophylactically to decrease mood swings
- -relapses, when they occur, are less severe and usually shorter in duration
- -blood concentration monitoring allows careful titration to therapeutic concentration

# Disadvantages of Carbamazepine and Valproic Acid Treatment

- - hepatotoxicity and blood problems may limit therapy
- - narrow range of therapeutic blood concentrations, requires close monitoring to prevent toxicity
- - patient compliance and understanding of the warning signs of toxicity is important
- - lag period before therapeutic effect in manic patients
- - prophylactic effect may take 6 months to 1 year to maximize
- - expense of blood concentration
- - family "losses" a fun loving, energetic family member - important aspect of education

# Lamotrigine- Lamictal

- Approved for maintenance
- Not effective for acute manic episodes
- Delayed time to intervention for depression
- Side effects
  - Headache
  - Nausea
  - Insomnia
  - Rare 0.1% severe rash

# Gabapentin- Neurontin

- placebo more effective in controlled trial
- Sedation
- Dizziness
- Ataxia
- No drug interactions

# Topirimate- Topamax

- Mania trial failed- manufacturer stopped development
- Side Effects
  - Sedation
  - Dizziness
  - Ataxia
  - Wt loss

# Omega 3 fatty acids

- May inhibit neuronal signal transduction paths in a manner similar to Li and Depakote
- 9 grams vs. olive oil
- 30 pts for 4 months
- Longer remission  $P = .002$
- Arch Gen Psych 1999 56: 413-14
- May be useful for aggression/depression in BPD- AJP 2003 160:167-9
- Not better than placebo in MD- AJP 160:996-8
- Helpful as adjunct- Eur Neuropsychopharmacology 13:267-71

Questions?

# Anxiolytics

- SSRI
- TCA
- MAOI
- Benzodiazepines
- Buspirone
- Antihistamines
- Beta blockers



# Treatment Options for Panic Disorder

## Tricyclic Antidepressants

- Imipramine
- Desipramine
- Nortriptyline

## Benzodiazepines

- Alprazolam
- Clonazepam
- Diazepam

## Panic Disorder

## Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors

- Phenelzine

## SSRIs

- Fluoxetine
- Paroxetine
- Sertraline

## Other

- Propranolol
- Combination
- Valproate
- Buspirone

# Benzodiazepines

- Overutilized vs. Underutilized
- Abuse potential- \$2-5/pill “street value”
- Rapid onset of action
- Tolerance after 4-6 wks
- Withdrawal risk
- Good for agitation in mania, schizophrenia
- Long  $\frac{1}{2}$  life drugs less abused?

# Target Symptoms for Anxiety

## ■ • Motor Tension

- - Trembling, twitching
- or feeling shaky
- - Restlessness
- Muscle Tension, aches or soreness
- Easy fatigability

## ■ • Autonomic Hyperactivity

- - Shortness of breath
- 
- - Sweating, cold clammy hands
- - Palpitations or tachycardia
- 
- - Dry mouth
- Dizziness or lightheadedness
- Frequent urination/urgency
- Nausea, diarrhea, GI distress
- "Lump in throat"

# Target Symptoms in Anxiety (continued)

## ■ • Vigilance and Scanning

- - Feeling keyed up or on edge- Insomnia
- - Easy to startle      - Difficulty concentrating
- - Irritability

## ■ • Panic (in addition to above)

- - Choking      - Fear of going crazy
- - Paresthesias      - Chest pain/discomfort
- - Fear of dying

# SLEEP DISORDERS/HYPNOTICS

- • Key to treatment is accurate diagnosis
- • Sleep history is imperative
- • Nonpharmacological interventions are crucial elements to treatment strategy

# Non-benzo Sedatives

- Ambien (zolpidem)
- Sonata (Zaleplon)
- Recommended for 7-10 days only
- Surprise
- Only action at Benzo receptor
- Selective Benzodiazepine
  - No amnesia
  - No muscle relaxation

Questions?